AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) [[An]] A positively charged oligomeric conjugate positively charged, comprising:

an oligomer with a polymerization degree (PD) from 5 to 36, formed from monomeric components comprising monomeric components having substituted NH_3^+ and monomeric components having unsubstituted NH_3^+, wherein

a) ~~said monomeric component is substituted in a ratio of at least 50%~~ monomeric components having substituted NH_3^+ represent at least 50% by monomeric components, said ratio being determined by nuclear magnetic resonance, by protonable residues, said residues being protonated in a weak acid medium, said protonation leading to a destabilization of a cellular membrane,

b) said protonable residues possess the following properties:

said protonable residues contain a functional group enabling them to be linked to said oligomer,

~~said protonable residues are not recognized as a recognition signal recognized by a cellular membrane receptor,~~

said protonable residues comprise at least one unsubstituted NH_3^+ group selected from the group consisting of imidazoles, quinolines, pterines, and pyridines,

c) [[the]] where NH_3^+ groups of said monomers are optionally substituted by uncharged residues leading to a reduction of the number of positive charges in comparison to the same oligomer before substitution,

d) molecules constituting a recognition signal recognized by a membrane cellular receptor are optionally present:

by substitution of some of the NH_3^+ of said monomers,

on some of the uncharged residues leading to a reduction of the number of charges,

on some of said protonable residues leading to a destabilization of a cellular membrane, or

by substitution of the NH_3^+ ~~(if it is present)~~ of said protonable residues, if said protonable residues are present, leading to a destabilization of a cellular membrane, provided that the total number of the non-substituted NH_3^+ ~~functions~~ groups is of at least 50% of the polymerization degree.

21. (previously presented) The oligomeric conjugate according to claim 20, wherein the protonable residues leading

to a destabilization of cellular membranes have a pK in aqueous medium lower than 8.0.

22. (currently amended) The oligomeric conjugate complex according to claim 20, wherein said protonable residues are compounds selected from the group consisting of:

~~imidazoles,~~

~~quinolines,~~

pterines, and

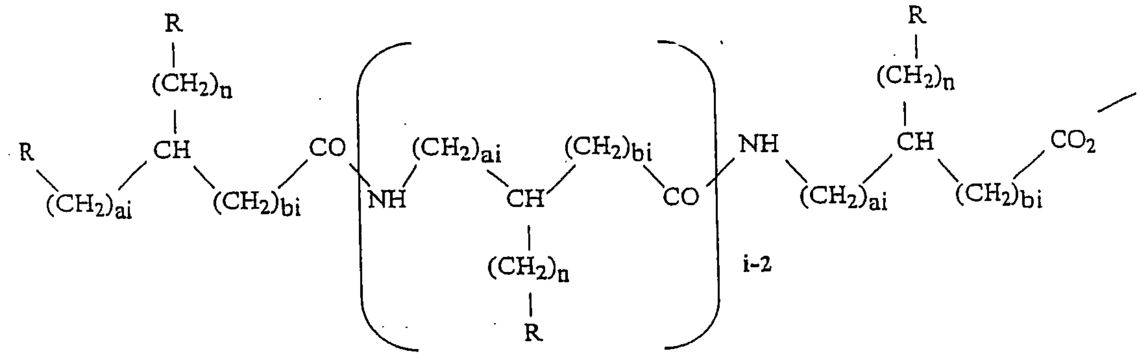
pyridines.

23. (previously presented) The oligomeric conjugate according to claim 20, wherein said protonable residues comprise alkylimidazoles in which the alkyl radical has from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, and only one nitrogen atom of the imidazole ring is substituted.

24. (currently amended) The oligomeric conjugate according to claim 20, wherein the protonable residues leading to a destabilization of cellular membranes are selected from the group consisting of histidine, 4-carboxymethyl-imidazole, 3-(1-methyl-imidazol-4yl)-alanine, 3-(3-methyl-imidazol-4yl)-alanine, 2-carboxy-imidazole, histamine, 3-(imidazol-4yl)-L-lactic acid, 2-(1-methyl-imidazol-4yl)ethylamine, 2-(3-[[metyl]]methyl-[[limidazol]]imidazol-4yl)ethylamine, β-alanyl-histidine-(carnosine), 7-chloro-4(amino-1-methylbutylamino)-quinoline, N4-(7-chloro-4-quinolinyl)-1,4-pentanediamine, 8-(4-amino-1-methylbutylamino)-6-methoxy-quinoline (primaquine), N4-(6-

methoxy-8-quinolinyl)1,4-pentanediamine, quininic acid, quinoline carboxylic acid, [[pteroïc]] pteroic acid, nicotinic acid, and quinolinic acid.

25. (previously presented) An oligomeric conjugate having the following formula:



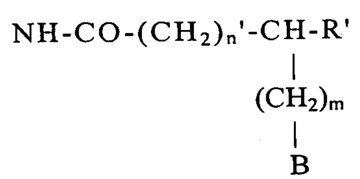
wherein: ai = an integer varying from 0 to 10,

bi = an integer varying from 0 to 10,

i = degree of polymerization from 5 to 36,

n = an integer varying from 1 to 6,

wherein 50% to 100% of all R groups are selected from the group consisting of



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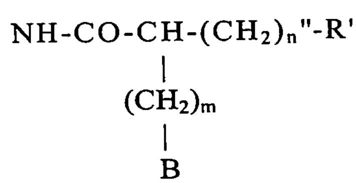
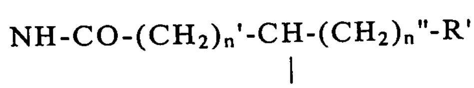


, and



$(CH_2)_m$
|
B

wherein m = an integer varying from 1 to 6,

n' = an integer varying from 0 to 6,

n" = an integer varying from 0 to 6,

B = a weak base,

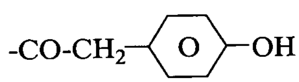
R' represents NH_3^+ (corresponding to a number p);

or NH (corresponding to a number q) substituted by a structure selected from the group consisting of

$-CO-CH_3$,

$-CO-(CHOH)_rH$ r being an integer from 1 to 15,

$-CO-(CH_2)_s-(CHOH)_rH$ r being an integer from 1 to 15, and s being an integer from 1 to 6,



$-SO_2$-Flu,

-CO-Flu, and

-CS-NH-Flu

wherein Flu is a fluorescent molecule; and wherein 0% to 50% of all R groups (corresponding to f wherein: $0 < f \leq u$) are

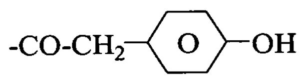
NH_3+ (corresponding to a number j); or

NH (corresponding to a number k), substituted by a structure selected from the group consisting of

$-CO-CH_3$,

$-CO-(CHOH)_rH$ — r being an integer from 1 to 15,

$-CO-(CH_2)_s-(CHOH)_rH$ — r being an integer from 1 to 15, and s being an integer from 1 to 6,



$-SO_2$-Flu,

-CO-Flu, and

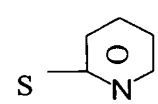
-CS-NH-Flu wherein

Flu is a fluorescent molecule; or

H (corresponding to a number h); or

$(CH_2)_nH$ — n being an integer from 1 to 6 (corresponding to a number h); or

$(CH_2)_n-OH$ — n being an integer from 1 to 6 (corresponding to a number h); or

$(CH_2)_n-SA'$ — A' = H, CH_3 or 

n being integer from 1 to 6 (corresponding to a number h)

with $i = u + j + k + h$

total number of α NH_3^+ = p = u-q

total number of ω NH_3^+ = j = f-(k + h)

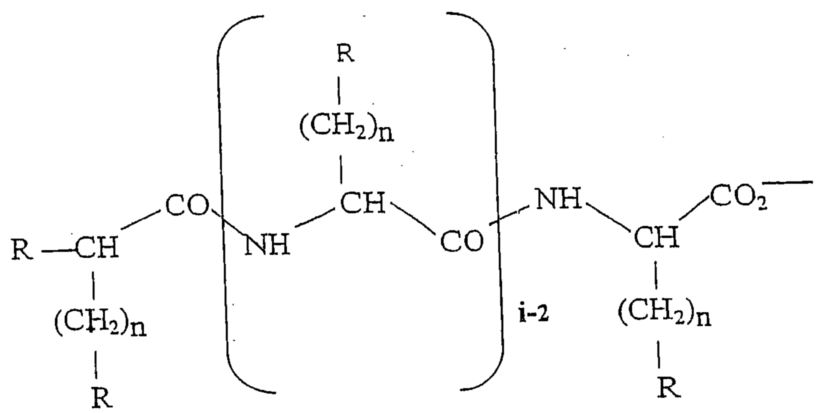
total number of NH_3^+ = m = p + j+1

with the proviso that:

1) u $\geq$ i/2

2) m $\geq$ i/2.

26. (previously presented) The oligomeric conjugate according to claim 25, wherein the oligomeric conjugate contains an oligomer of the following formula:



wherein

i = degree of polymerization from 5 to 36,

n = is an integer varying from 1 to 6,

wherein 50% to 100% of all R groups (corresponding to u) are selected from the group consisting of

$$\begin{array}{l} NH\text{-}CO\text{-}(CH_2)_{n}'\text{-}\underset{\displaystyle (CH_2)_m}{\underset{|}{CH}}\text{-}R' \end{array}$$

|
B ,

NH-CO-CH-$(CH_2)_{n}$"-R'
|
$(CH_2)_m$
|
B , and

NH-CO-$(CH_2)_{n}$'-CH-$(CH_2)_{n}$"-R'
|
$(CH_2)_m$
|
B

m = an integer varying from 1 to 6,

n' = an integer varying from 0 to 6,

n" = an integer varying from 0 to 6,

B = a weak base,

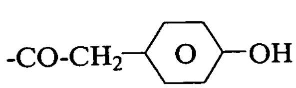
R' represents NH_3^+ (corresponding to a number p);

or NH (corresponding to a number q) substituted by a structure selected from the group consisting of

$-CO-CH_3$,

$-CO-(CHOH)_rH$ r being an integer from 1 to 15,

$-CO-(CH_2)_s-(CHOH)_rH$ r being an integer from 1 to 15, and s being an integer from 1 to 6,



$-SO_2$-Flu,

-CO-Flu, and

-CS-NH-Flu wherein

Flu is a fluorescent molecule;

and wherein 0% to 50% of all R groups (corresponding to f: $0 < f \leq u$) are

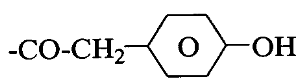
NH_3^+ (corresponding to a number j); or

NH (corresponding to a number k), substituted by a structure selected from the group consisting of

$-CO-CH_3$,

$-CO-(CHOH)_rH$ r being an integer from 1 to 15,

$-CO-(CH_2)_s-(CHOH)_rH$ r being an integer from 1 to 15, and s being an integer from 1 to 6,



$-SO_2$-Flu,

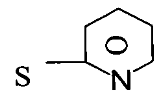
-CO-Flu, and

-CS-NH-Flu, wherein

Flu is a fluorescent molecule; or

H (corresponding to a number h); or

$(CH_2)_nH$ n being an integer from 1 to 6 (corresponding to a number h); or

$(CH_2)_n\text{-}OH$	n being an integer from 1 to 6 (corresponding to a number h); or
$(CH_2)_n\text{-}SA'$	A' = H, CH_3 or  n being integer from 1 to 6 (corresponding to a number h)

with $i = u + j + k + h$

total number of α NH_3^+ = $p = u-q$

total number of ω NH_3^+ = $j = f-(k + h)$

total number of NH_3^+ = $m = p + j + 1$

with the proviso that:

1) $u \geq i/2$

2) $m \geq i/2$.

27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) A composition comprising [[an]] at least one of the oligomeric ~~conjugate~~ conjugates according to claim 27, in association with an oligonucleotide.

29. (currently amended) A combined preparation, in the form of a kit-of-parts, comprising:

a) [[an]] the oligomeric conjugate according to claim 20, and

b) an oligonucleotide for the simultaneous, separate or sequential use, for the *in vitro, in vivo,* or *ex vivo*

transfer of [[said]] <u>a</u> biological ~~molecules~~ <u>molecule</u> into a cytosol and/or cell nucleus.

30. (currently amended) A method for the *in vitro*, *ex vivo*, or *in vivo* intracellular transfer of oligonucleotides into a cytosol and/or in a cell nucleus of a cell, comprising:

treating said cell with [[an]] <u>at least one of the</u> oligomeric conjugate according to claim 20 in association with an oligonucelotide <u>to transfer said oligonucleotide into the cytosol of said cell</u>.

31. (currently amended) A method for the *in vitro*, *ex vivo*, or *in vivo* transfer of an oligonucleotide, into a cytosol and/or <u>into</u> a cell nucleus of a cell, comprising:

treating said cell with [[an]] <u>at least one of the</u> oligomeric conjugate according to claim 20 in association with said oligonucleotide <u>to transfer said oligonucleotide into the cytosol of said cell</u>.

32. (previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the cells are selected from the group consisting of muscular, epithelial, endothelial, and myeloid cells.

33. (currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition, comprising as an active substance, [[an]] <u>the</u> oligomeric conjugate according to claim 20, in association with a ~~pharmaceutically~~ acceptable vehicle.

34. (previously presented) A kit or case comprising:

a) [[an]] the oligomeric conjugate according to claim 20,

b) at least one biological molecule to transfer, and

c) reagents enabling transfer of at least one biological molecule into a cell.

35. (currently amended) [[An]] A positively charged oligomeric conjugate ~~positively charged~~, comprising:

an oligomer with a polymerization degree (PD) from 5 to 36, formed from monomeric components ~~having free NH_3^+ and substituted NH_3^+~~ comprising monomeric compounds having substituted NH_3^+ and monomeric compounds having unsubstituted NH_3^+, wherein

a) [[the]] wherein free NH_3^+ groups of said monomeric components are in a ratio of at least 50%, said ratio being determined by nuclear magnetic resonance, by protonable residues, said residues being protonated in a weak acid medium, said protonation leading to a destabilization of a cellular membrane, and

b) said protonable residues possess the following properties:

wherein said protonable residues contain a functional group enabling them to be linked to said oligomer,

~~said protonable residues are not recognized as a recognition signal recognized by a cellular membrane receptor,~~

wherein said protonable residues comprise at least one free NH_3^+ group and selected from the group consisting of midazoles, quinalines, pterines, and pysidines.~~,~~

~~c) the free NH_3^+ of said monomers can optionally be substituted by uncharged residues leading to a reduction of the number of positive charges in comparison to the same oligomer before substitution,~~

~~d) molecules constituting a recognition signal recognized by a membrane cellular receptor may also optionally be present~~

~~by substitution of some of the free NH_3^+ of said monomers,~~

~~on some of the uncharged residues leading to a reduction of the number of charges,~~

~~on some of said protonable residues leading to a destabilization of a cellular membrane, or~~

~~by substitution of a free NH_3^+ of said protonable residues leading to a destabilization of a cellular membrane.~~